

COUNTRY DATA: Central African Republic: Information from the CIA World

INTRODUCTION

The former French colony of Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic upon independence in 1960. After three tumultuous decades of misrule - mostly by military governments - civilian rule was established in 1993 and lasted for one decade. President Ange-Felix PATASSE's civilian government was plagued by unrest, and in March 2003 he was deposed in a military coup led by General Francois BOZIZE, who established a transitional government. Though the government has the tacit support of civil society groups and the main parties, a wide field of candidates contested the municipal, legislative, and presidential elections held in March and May of 2005 in which General BOZIZE was affirmed as president. The government still does not fully control the countryside, where pockets of lawlessness persist. Unrest in the neighboring nations of Chad, Sudan, and the DRC continues to affect stability in the Central African Republic as well.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Central Africa, north of Democratic Republic of the Congo
Area	total: 622,984 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>45</u> land: 622,984 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers
Natural Resources	diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil, hydropower
Total Renewable Water Resources	144.4 cu km (2003)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 0.03 cu km/yr (80%/16%/4%) per capita: 7 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	hot, dry, dusty harmattan winds affect northern areas; floods are common
Environmental Issues	tap water is not potable; poaching has diminished the country's reputation as one of the last great wildlife refuges; desertification; deforestation

PEOPLE

Population	Population: 4,950,027 (July 2011 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>117</u> note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality, higher death rates, lower population growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected
Ethnic Groups	Baya 33%, Banda 27%, Mandjia 13%, Sara 10%, Mboum 7%, M'Baka 4%, Yakoma 4%, other 2%
Religions	indigenous beliefs 35%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15% note: animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority
Languages	French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), tribal languages
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 48.6% male: 64.8% female: 33.5% (2000 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	degree of risk: very high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever vectorborne disease: malaria respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis water contact disease: schistosomiasis animal contact disease: rabies (2009)

GOVERNMENT

Type	republic
Independence	13 August 1960 (from France)
Constitution	ratified by popular referendum 5 December 2004; effective 27 December 2004
Legal System	civil law system based on the French model

ECONOMY

Agricultural Products	timber, cotton, coffee, tobacco, manioc (tapioca), yams, millet, corn, bananas; timber
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Industries	gold and diamond mining, logging, brewing, textiles, footwear, assembly of bicycles and motorcycles
Import commodities	food, textiles, petroleum products, machinery, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals
Import Partners	France 14.7%, US 9.6%, Cameroon 9.1%, Netherlands 8.3% (2009)
Export Commodities	diamonds, timber, cotton, coffee, tobacco
Export Partners	Belgium 35.6%, China 12%, Morocco 11.2%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 7.5%, France 6.3% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$700 (2010 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>221</u> \$700 (2009 est.) \$700 (2008 est.) <i>note:</i> data are in 2010 US dollars
Population below poverty line	NA%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Central African Republic

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	47.7
Average number of years in School (in years)	3.5
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	758
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	10.5
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	10.3
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	26.2
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	71.6
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	86.9
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	54
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	62.4
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	..
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	38

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	...
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	...
Population without Access to Water (%)	33
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	66
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	510
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	125.1
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	...
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	41
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	38.9
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	5.5
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	1.1
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	6.3
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	58.0
Population without Electricity (%)	..

